

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A lifting device comprising a rigid base hingedly connected to a rigid seat, and an inflatable bag located between the base and the seat, the inflatable bag comprising a tubular main body which is sealed at each end by separately formed end panels attached to said main body so as to form an inflation chamber, the material of the main body, at each said end, forming with said end panels an outwardly projecting flange by means of which the opposing ends of the bag are securely fastened to and secured to at least one of the rigid base and rigid seat, respectively, whereby inflation of the bag will cause the angle between the hingedly connected base and seat to increase and thereby lift a user seated on the seat.

2. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 1 wherein the base and/or the seat are plastics moldings.

3. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 2 wherein both the base and the seat are plastics moldings and the hinge is formed by projections which are integral with the base and the seat and are interconnected by a hinge pin.

4. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 1 wherein the bag comprises a tube and substantially flat ends.

5. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 4 wherein the tube is curved.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 6 wherein a flange ring is used to secure at least one of the flanges to the base or the seat, the flange ring being provided with means for securing the flange ring to the base or the seat with the material of the flange trapped between the flange ring and the base or the seat.

8. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 7 wherein the securing means comprises snap-fit fasteners formed integrally with or secured to the flange ring for engaging snap-fit openings provided in the base or seat.

9. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 1 including means for locating the device on an existing chair.

10. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 9 wherein the locating means comprises a flange secured to the base and depending from the base to locate the base adjacent the front edge of an existing chair.

11. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 1 including a cushion secured to the rigid seat.

12. (Currently amended) A lifting device comprising:

a rigid base hingedly connected to a rigid seat; and
an inflatable tubular shaped bag having substantially flat ends located between the base and the seat, the inflatable bag comprising a tubular main body which is sealed at each end by separately formed end panels attached to said main body so as to form an inflation chamber, the material of the main body, at each said end, forming with said end panels an outwardly projecting flange by means of which the opposing ends of the bag are securely fastened to ~~and secured to at least one of the rigid base and rigid seat,~~ respectively; and

inflation means which inflates the bag to cause the angle between the hingedly connected base and seat to increase and thereby lift a user seated on the seat.

13. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 12 wherein the base and/or the seat are plastics moldings.

14. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 12 wherein the tube is curved.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 15 wherein a flange ring is used to secure at least one of the flanges to the base or the seat, the flange ring being provided with means for securing the flange ring to the base or the seat with the material of the flange trapped between the flange ring and the base or the seat.

17. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 16 wherein the securing means comprises snap-fit fasteners formed integrally with or secured to the flange ring for engaging snap-fit openings provided in the base or seat.

18. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 12 including means for locating the device on an existing chair.

19. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 18 wherein the locating means comprises a flange secured to the base and depending from the base to locate the base adjacent the front edge of an existing chair.

20. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 12 including a cushion secured to the rigid seat.

21. (Original) A lifting device according to Claim 12 including deflation means which permits the bag to deflate to assist a user in sitting down.